

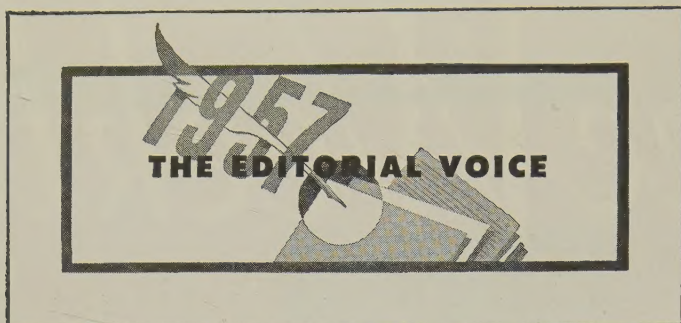
The Alliance Weekly

PACIFIC SCHOOL

DECEMBER 25, 1957



Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS REFORMATION LONG OVERDUE

In these mid-years of the twentieth century no other season of the year reveals so much religion and so little godliness as the Christmas season.

Since Dickens wrote his *Carol* scarcely anyone dares to come right out and say what he thinks of Christmas. To do so, we fear, would be to identify ourselves with a nasty old grouch who hated everybody; so we go along with the tinsel festivities, doing our best to preserve a misty smile on our faces and a happy, vibrant ring in our voices, no matter how we feel.

Now, Dickens to the contrary notwithstanding, I do not believe that we are compelled to choose between old Scrooge and Tiny Tim. Surely there is a middle ground where mature, love-inspired, Spirit-illuminated adults can locate themselves and make up their own minds about that most beautiful but most abused and abased holiday we call Christmas. I for one want to do just that and love everybody in the process.

I never knew an Ebenezer Scrooge. My own childhood was brightened by the annual return of Christmas. My sweet-faced mother struggled to provide a few extras for her family on Christmas morning and somehow she always succeeded. If there was no more than an orange, a popcorn ball and a cheap toy for each of us, it was yet a memorable time for all. Even the old yellow mongrel that lay on the homemade braided rug was on that happy morning treated to a handful of hard candy which he crunched loudly and solemnly to the squealing delight of the younger children.

The children that later came to my own home could, and I am sure would, testify to the almost unbearable delight Christmas morning brought to them. Their near delirium as they tumbled out of bed and gathered around the tree to unwrap their gifts amid shouts of surprise and delight will never be forgotten by them or by their parents while life and memory endure. No, whoever else might drop in during the day, Scrooge was never there; he'd have died of apoplexy if he had come near the place.

Yet Christmas as it is celebrated today is badly in need of a radical reformation. What was at first a spontaneous expression of an innocent pleasure has been carried to inordinate excess. In one section of Chicago, for instance, the excited citizenry vie with each other each year for the biggest, gaudiest and most vulgar Christmas tree, on the porch, on the lawn, along the

street; and one gigantic, flashily dressed and cold but terminally smiling Santa Claus drives a fully lighted herd of reindeer across the yard and over the house.

How far have we come in the corruption of our taste from the reverence of the simple shepherds, the charm of the angels and the beauty of the heavenly host! The Star of Bethlehem could not lead a wise man to Christmas today; it could not be distinguished amid the millions of artificial lights hung aloft on Main Street by the Merchants Association. No angels could sing loudly enough to make themselves heard above the raucous, earsplitting rendition of "Silent Night" meant to draw customers to the neighborhood stores.

In our mad materialism we have turned beauty into ashes, prostituted every normal emotion and made merchandise of the holiest gift the world ever knew. Christ came to bring peace and we celebrate His coming by making peace impossible for six weeks of each year. Not peace but tension, fatigue and irritation rule the Christmas season. He came to free us of debt and make us respond by going deep into debt each year to buy enervating luxuries for people who do not appreciate them. He came to help the poor and we heap gifts upon those who do not need them. The simple token given out of love has been displaced by expensive presents given because we have been caught in a squeeze and don't know how to back out of it. Not the beauty of the Lord our God is found in such a situation, but the ugliness and deformity of human sin.

Among the harmful abuses of the Christmas season in America is the substitution of Santa Claus for Christ as the chief object of popular interest, especially among the children.

The morality of Mother Goose stories and fairy tales has been questioned by serious-minded Christian parents but my opinion is that these are relatively harmless *because they are told as fiction and the child is fully aware that they are imaginary*. With Santa Claus it is not so. The child is taught falsehood as sober truth and is thus grossly deceived during the most sensitive and formative period of his life.

What shall we do? Cultivate humility and frugality. Put the emphasis where the Bible puts it, on the Christmas at the right hand of God, not on the babe in the manger. Return to the simplicity that is in Christ. Cleanse our churches of the unscriptural pageantry borrowed from Rome. Take the Scriptures as our guide and refuse to be pressured into conformity to paganism practiced in the name of Christ.

THE CAMPAIGN LEADERS

Congratulations to the leaders of the 1957 Subscription Campaign:

Toledo, Ohio, Rev. W. F. Bryan	9
Chicago, Ill., Dr. A. W. Tozer	8
New York, N. Y., Rev. P. W. Reidhead	5
Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. K. C. Fraser	4
Indianapolis, Ind., Rev. R. R. Kauffman	4

That God should send His Son into this world
to save man—that is the greatest wonder . . .
Yet this fact can be a personal reality to every man

The Wonder of Christmas

*"And all they that heard it wondered at those things
which were told them by the shepherds."—LUKE 2:18.*

By REV. LEROY C. WEBBER

*"The crowded Inn
A Mother and a Babe
No cradle, just a manger
A man stunned by wonder
A wandering Star."*

NO man could have invented the Christmas story; there is a wonder about it that is divine. God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. How evident this becomes as we read the Christmas story. We are confronted with a new wonder at every turn.

The greatest wonder is that there should be a Christmas at all. Why should God concern Himself with a rebellious world? All of His overtures of grace and mercy had been met by a stern rebuff. Was there any hope that a new approach would have any chance of success? God knew the hearts of men, and His Word contains the accurate picture of mankind—rebellious, wandering, stiff-necked, haughty. Why should God speak again to such as we are? In truth the great wonder of Christmas is that God should send His Son into this world.

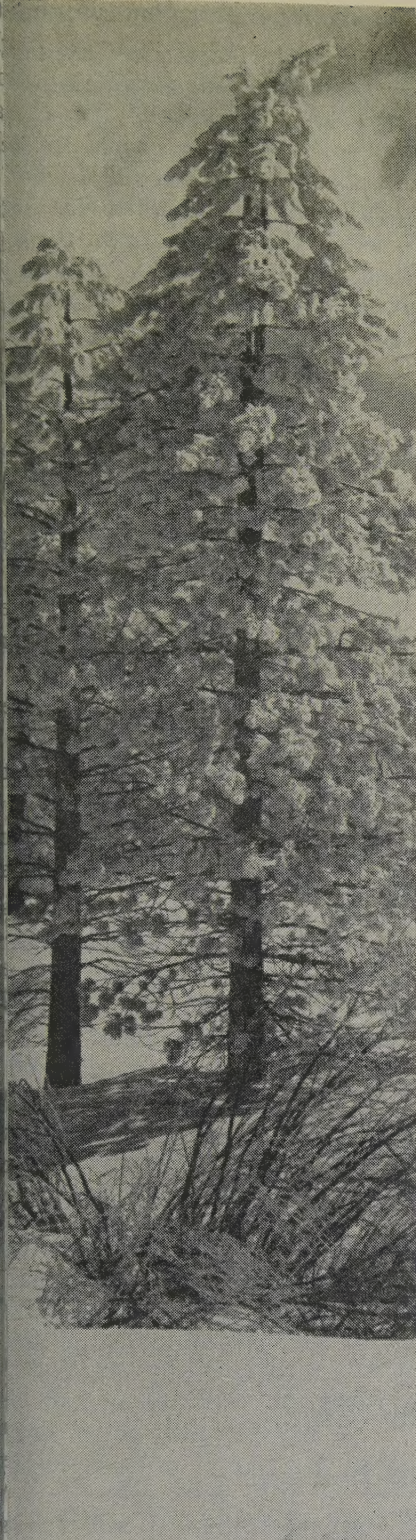
The second wonder is the method by which God's Son came to the world. We would imagine that there would be signs in the heavens—thunders, lightnings, great visions; and then, in majesty with a great display and myriads of angels, God's Only-begotten would proceed to this world in regal splendor riding upon a white horse. But this was not God's way. He was born a little baby.

Every baby is a wonder, but no baby was ever such a wonder as this—Immanuel, God with us; God in human flesh so that we rightly sing "God with man is now residing." Here in a little baby is the presence of God. This is God "contracted to a span." This is God humbled, unglorified. And yet, did ever such glory shine in the face of a little child?

*"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the Incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel."*

But that is not all. To be born a child is one thing, but His manner of birth staggers the imagination. It was not a royal birth, although He was the royal Son of Almighty God. He was born in circumstances of extreme poverty. You were born in a place better than His. Not only was He born in poverty, but behind it all we see the lack of a welcome. We ask ourselves, "If He had to be born, did He have to be born *this* way?" Why should He humble Himself so?

I believe the stable was part of God's plan, but that does not excuse the coldness of mankind. We read, "There was no room for them." No room! Was there no young man in the prime of youth who would give his bed to Mary at such a time as this? Was there no young mother, who herself had gone to the bars of death to return with a young life in her bosom, who would give her bed to Mary in her hour of need? Was there no one with kindness or



ave mercy upon me, O God, according
thy lovingkindness: according unto the
ltitude of thy tender mercies blot out
transgressions. . . . Purge me with
sop, and I shall be clean: wash me,
I shall be whiter than snow."—PSALM
1, 7.



Webber is pastor of the growing Long
l Chapel of The Christian and Mission-
Alliance in Chatham, N. J.

sympathy or even pity? The Negro spiritual says "We didn't know who You was." But that is not excuse enough. Such treatment should be given to no one, but here unkindness even reaches to the Lord's Christ.

If our hearts are filled with wonder at the coming of Christ to this world, coming as a baby, coming to such humble circumstances, we are then filled with great wonder when we consider what He has done to the humble manger. Nineteen hundred years later we sing of a manger. This speaks to us of God's ability to take that which is humble and despised and bless it by His presence. When I make my heart a humble manger Christ is pleased to come and dwell, and wherever He dwells the radiant glories of heaven shine.

God has taken the worthless things of this world, the despised things, and has given them great meaning. The manger, the cross, the empty tomb—these things speak to us of the salvation of God. The manger—a place for cattle, rude, crude, and yet the place where God came down. The cross—emblem of shame, suffering, penalty, and yet the place where Christ redeemed the world. The tomb—morbid place of the dead, and yet it became the scene of

complete victory. He did not own the manger; it was borrowed for the occasion. He did not own the tomb; it was borrowed for the occasion. And we must hasten to say that the cross was not really His. It belonged to us, and yet in His mercy He bore it in our stead. There was a humble, borrowed manger, a despised, borrowed cross, and lonely, borrowed tomb, but all three have been glorified by the presence of the living Christ.

When we consider these things, we realize that these wonders can be real in our hearts. No man has really had Christmas until Christ has been born in his own heart. When Christ is born in the heart, the angels sing their song again, and the star shines forth in glory.

"O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel." ♦ ♦ ♦



The operation of grace, which detaches us from ourselves and which uproots our self-love, cannot, without a miracle of grace, avoid being painful.—FÉNELON.

Quotes from Our Contemporaries

In *Salvation* HERMAN B. CENTZ says:

"Is Jewish evangelization a part of the Great Commission? If it is then we MUST give the gospel to the people at whatever cost. If we debtors to the heathen for withholding the gospel from them as long, we owe a double debt to the people of Israel through whom the first place the gospel came to us."

JAMES F. GREGORY, editor of *The Free Methodist*, points out that the Lord's people are set apart:

"When the people of God are holy, there is a tendency to affiliate with all that is holy and an instinctive recoiling from that which is unholy. Nor need we be surprised when the unholy is moved by the same tendency and withdraws from the presence of the holy."

RUEBEN L. DAHL, in *The Standard*, speaks for youth:

"Teens have big temptations. They are big to them for they are persons to each one of them. Let us adults recognize these temptations so that we might be better able to cope with their problems. Understand, 78 per cent of the teens are unchurched. Many of the others know not our Christ either. We must reach them now for Christ or lose them for eternity."

VOLUME 92 NUMBER 52

the Alliance Weekly

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

A. B. SIMPSON, Founder
H. M. SHUMAN, President-Emeritus
HARRY L. TURNER, President
NATHAN BAILEY, Vice-President
WILLIAM F. SMALLEY, Secretary
BERNARD S. KING, Treasurer

A. W. TOZER, Editor
CHARLES E. NOTSON, Assistant Editor
ANITA M. BAILEY, Managing Editor

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa. Published weekly by Christian Publications, Inc.

Subscriptions: United States and Canada, \$2.00; Foreign, \$2.75. Address correspondence on editorial matters to THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY, 260 W. 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.; regarding subscriptions, Third and Reily Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

When requesting change of address kindly give both old and new address to insure proper mailing.

(Printed in U. S. A.)

To all our readers
A Very Happy Christmas

In the New Year
we shall strive to make

The Alliance Witness

a source of
spiritual help and strength

The Staff

The Master Secrets of Prayer

VII. Some Practical Hints About Prayer

The last of a series

By CAMERON V. THOMPSON

is best to meet God early in the morning. We should see His face before we see the faces of our loved ones. The sun never rose in China without what it found Hudson Taylor conversing with God. The Mohammedans put us to shame as they rise very early to pray to Allah. When David said, "I will cry unto God at high; unto God *that permeth all things for me*" (Psa. 57: 6) he hastened to add, "I myself will awake early" (verse 8).

The prayer warriors of the Old and New Testaments rose early. Jacob served Abraham (Gen. 19:27), Isaac (Gen. 28:18), Moses (Ex. 34: 6), Joshua (Josh. 3:1), and especially our blessed Lord: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35).

Have a definite place to pray. When Dwight L. Moody could find no other place, he prayed in a coal-bunker. A businessman made it an invariable rule that none should enter his office from nine to ten each morning, for that time was strictly reserved aside for prayer and prominent men had to wait patiently while he waited to the King of kings.

Soldiers never bothered a certain general when they saw a white handkerchief in front of his tent. It was an indication that he was in prayer. Mothers who are hindered from praying in the morning can retire to a secret place to pray after the children have gone to school. At any rate, we must have a regular place for prayer. How the enemy works to stop this! One man said, "My seat is my seat on the bus, where I cover my face with my hat and pray."

Family prayer is indispensable for

a home that wishes to count for Christ. Of Abraham the Lord said, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen. 18:19).

Timothy came from a household where, without doubt, family prayer was held: "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tim. 1:5).

Read a chapter each morning from the Bible; let each child read; read and discuss missionary letters; listen to and learn from the simple and expectant prayers and praises of your little ones. The Lord will show what is best, but woe to that man who, like Samuel, prays much but neglects to pray with his family (1 Sam. 8:3).

United prayer has a special blessing from God. "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:19, 20).



In a few months this series of articles will be published in booklet form by the Pan American Testament League. Readers who would be interested in preserving the articles in this form may write to Mr. Thompson at 1147 Briarcliff Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. . . . Mr. Thompson's testimony of healing from tuberculosis and of his conversion is included in the book, "Modern Miracles of Healing" (Christian Publications, Inc., now out of print).

A blazing fire of revival will surely follow where one man gets utterly right with God, begins to pray and joins with his friends in prayer. But such efforts, to be effective and scriptural, must be regular. "And they, continuing *daily* with one accord in the temple . . . And the Lord added to the church *daily* such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46, 47).

Pray at every opportunity. It is good to pray before each trip in your car. When people phone you for help, you can pray with them over the phone. Men and women have often been led to Christ over the phone. Many wait until they are at wit's-end corner, at the bottom of the well, before they call on the Lord. "It looks as though I am just going to have to trust the Lord to work this out," said a poor man. "Has it come to that!" exclaimed his alarmed friend.

Robert E. Lee was president of a military school in his late years. He spent the time between classes praying for his men. For years we have prayed at the mailbox when sending out the letters of the day. We keep a box into which we put all of our bills. We pray, holding them up before the Lord, and they are always honored. Pray in the night when you are awakened, even if it is but for a moment. Pray before making decisions, especially those that are likely to be sudden. See what Nehemiah did: "Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven" (2:4). "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing *instant* in prayer" (Rom. 12: 12).

Avoid lengthy prayers in public. Moody said that he would rather hear a man pray several short

prayers than one long prayer; a long prayer in public indicates little prayer in private.

It is said that during the extended prayer of a dear saint, Sir Wilfred Grenfell became disgusted and started to walk out. Mr. Moody, leading the service, noticed this and interrupted the prayer and announced a hymn. Grenfell was converted as a result of this act.

Solomon prayed the longest prayer in the Bible and, judging by his subsequent life, seems never to have prayed again (see 1 Kings 8). God had no trouble hearing Peter when he cried, "Lord, save me" (Matt. 14:30); nor the Syrophenician woman when she cried, "Lord, help me" (15:25); nor David when he prayed, "Help, Lord" (Psa. 12:1), the shortest prayer in the Bible. "But when ye pray, use not *vain* repetitions" (Matt. 6:7). This includes prayer forms or predigested prayers, which are an abomination to God.

There is not a line in Scripture to authorize the reading of prepared prayers. Such props are best left for the heathen. Men who pray the same weary round each time they are called on should not be called on to pray.

Preaching during prayer is an abomination. A newspaper item once recorded: "It was the most wonderful prayer ever offered to a Boston audience." It is best not to instruct the Lord while praying. Avoid at all cost the phrase, "O Lord, Thou knowest . . ." Often study the model prayer given by our Lord to teach principles of prayer (not to be chanted in a church), and note its fathomless depths (Matt. 6:9-13).

In private prayer, feel free to pour out your complaints, wonderments, bewilderment, questions and troubles with holy boldness, in an utter abandonment and emptying. Abraham's first recorded prayer (Gen. 15) contained much of this. David said, "I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path" (Psa. 142:2, 3). Note particularly Psalm 102.

Some encouragements to prayer: We clearly understand that our main encouragement to pray comes from the Word of God wherein we

learn of our wonderful Friend of friends who is always ready to hear us and help us. But so many of us find that after a time we have drifted into a life of careless and unbelieving prayer. I have discovered a wonderful remedy for this. I resolved that to remind myself of the tremendous importance of prayer I would read at least one chapter from a good book on prayer each day. I began collecting these books as a hobby, and within them I have, indeed, found treasure and encouragement. Seek counsel of those who know good books. Be sure to include many missionary biographies among those books you purchase.

If you find it tedious to record your prayers, at least record the answers which thrill you. Ask visitors at your home, speakers, pastors, to tell you of answers to prayer. In reading of answers to prayer I have

discovered whole fields of prayer I knew nothing of. Some have prepared a notebook containing promises from the Word which they have claimed or wish to claim.

When you hear of or read of an answer to prayer, carefully note the secrets or principles which are involved. Meditate on the answer. List the things people have prayed for in the Bible. There are hundreds of them. Mark the great chapters on prayer in the Bible and study the biographies of men and women who prayed. In all the Bibles which I have read through, each prayer is marked in the margin with the letter "P," and the margins are filled with exclamations about the things that God has shown me.

But only the Holy Spirit can pray. If we do not grieve Him by our words and deeds, we shall always know and practice the unparalleled adventure of prayer. ♦ ♦

Nativity

All my heart this night rejoices

As I hear,

Far and near,

Sweetest angel voices.

"Christ is born" their choirs are singing,

Till the air,

Everywhere,

Now with joy is ringing.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,

Soft and sweet,

Doth entreat,

"Flee from woe and danger.

Brethren, come from all that grieves you,

You are freed;

All you need

I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder;

Here let all,

Great and small,

Kneel in awe and wonder!

Love Him who with love is yearning;

Hail the star

That from afar

Bright with hope is burning.

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'd cherish,

Live to Thee,

And with Thee,

Dying, shall not perish;

But shall dwell with Thee forever,

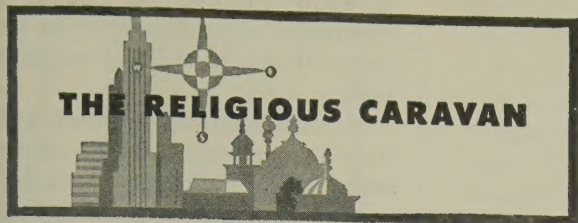
Far on high,

In the joy

That can alter never.

—PAULUS GERHARDT, 1656

Translated by Catherine Winkworth.



DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

Plans "Voice of the Arctic" radio station: The Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington for a license to build and operate a standard broadcast radio station in or near Nome, Alaska. Arthur Zylstra, Covenant missionary with experience in broadcasting, will direct the station, tentatively named "Voice of the Arctic."

Unveil monument to early Bible translator: A memorial to John Rogers (1500-55), editor of "Matthew's Bible" and first British Protestant martyr under Queen Mary Tudor of England, was unveiled on the grounds of the Open Church Association at Gloucester, Mass. The memorial is a gift from Roger W. Babson, of Gloucester, who said he is a descendant of the early Protestant leader.

Propose Baptists launch new work: The president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention proposed at Little Rock, Ark., that Southern Baptists establish a "beachhead" in New England where he said they have no units at present. In recent years Southern Baptists have established churches or conventions in a number of states and areas outside the South.

Dedicate first unit of "Baptist Village": The first unit of a \$3,000,000 retirement home for "God's older children" was dedicated at Waycross, Ga., as "Baptist Village." The \$230,000 building will house twenty-four persons. It will be opened for occupancy early next year. Rev. Harvey Mitchell, administrator of the home, said "the heart and soul of Baptist Village will not necessarily be in the beautiful and modern building you now see but rather in the service it will enable us to offer God's older children in their years of fulfillment."

Presbyterian mission board dedicates new building: A new \$400,000 headquarters building for the Board of World Missions, Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern), was dedicated at Nashville, Tenn. It replaces an old residence which housed the board's operations for thirty-one years. Dr. William M. Elliot, pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Tex., and moderator of the denomination, was the speaker.

ABROAD

Methodists baptize 579 in Seoul mission: A total of 579 persons were baptized at the close of an eleven-day Methodist evangelism mission conducted at Ewha University in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Harry Denman, of Nashville, the board's general secretary, led the mission. He conducted a similar one at the school last year and more than 700 were baptized on the closing day.

Imprisonment and murder in Colombia: In Saboya, Boyaca, Colombia, Roman Catholic opposition to the gospel resulted in the imprisonment of one believer and the murder of another in whose home he had been preaching. On October 14 Pedro Moreno and Juan Pablo Coy were taken to the Saboya jail. Coy was released the next day. Early the next morning a group of men attacked Juan Pablo Coy near his home in the country. He died of gunshot wounds a few hours later.

PEOPLE

Mission names new home director: Rev. Kenneth G. Hood, field director for Costa Rica of the Latin America Mission, will return to the United States for a two-year period to assume the Mission's home directorship.

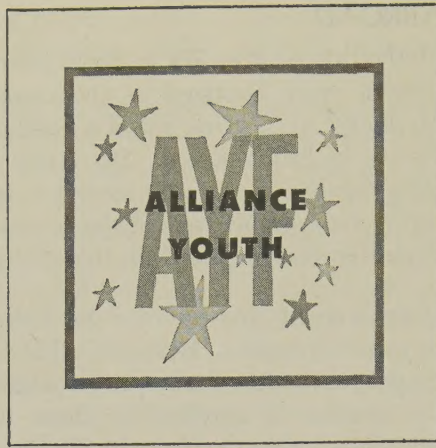
Former Scottish moderator dies: Rev. Alfred Merriweather, moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland in 1936 and 1952, died in Edinburgh at the age of seventy-nine. He was minister of Martyrs and St. John's United Free Church for twenty-five years before retiring in 1954.

Dr. Lamsa honored for new Bible translation: Dr. George M. Lamsa, scholar and author, was honored at a dinner in New York by the Aramaic Bible Society for his new translation of the Bible from the Aramaic dialect, the language spoken by Christ. He received an embossed scroll in "sincere appreciation of his tireless efforts to a task designed for the spiritual enlightenment of the peoples of the world."

THE PRESS

Lutherans launch Hungarian-language paper: A Hungarian-language monthly for Lutheran refugees in this country has been launched under the sponsorship of a National Lutheran Council department. Entitled *Eros Var* ("A Mighty Fortress"), the eight-page periodical is being published under the auspices of the Department of Lutheran World Service of the NLC's Division of Lutheran World Federation Affairs.

Bible circulation nears twenty-seven million mark: Total world circulation of the Bible, the Old and New Testaments and portions of the Scriptures together reached 26,379,142 in December, 1956. This and other dramatic facts are documented in a twelve-page report issued recently by Dr. Frank W. Price, director of the Missionary Research Library. This is almost one million more than the year before and 3,242,469 more than in 1954.



WELDON B. BLACKFORD, Editor

How to Serve the Lord

By A. B. SIMPSON

Young people are the most enthusiastic and coöperative people in the world. . . . It's usually no trouble to get help from the AYF, whether it's to clean up and decorate the Sunday school rooms, visit the home for the aged or distribute tracts. . . . Yet to accomplish its true purpose and to bring glory to the Lord all our service must be impelled by and wrought in the power of the Holy Spirit. This interesting account of a God-directed mission points up this fact . . .

Before we can speak God's messages we must learn to listen. The opened ear comes before the opened mouth. It is very hard sometimes to die to our own thoughts and elaborate preparations for service, and to be free and open for God to use us as vessels meet for the Master's use.

Sometimes He has to humble us by showing us the barrenness of all our best intellectual work, and then lead us to receive the living messages of His Holy Spirit. Sometimes we may think the message very unworthy and almost unsuitable, but God loves to take "the things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence."

A saintly woman, whom God has greatly used in speaking to individuals, tells how once she was distinctly sent by the Lord on a certain train, but when she arrived at the station the train was crowded and the guard told her she could not go. Nevertheless she waited, having learned that a point-blank refusal is often the best evidence of God's working. Just as the train was about to leave, suddenly the guard came to her and hurried her into a car which had just been put on. There she found herself sitting

beside a young gentleman and immediately the thought came, "This is the service the Lord has sent me to do."

After a little she introduced the subject of personal religion, but he haughtily replied, "My family objects to my being talked to on such subjects."

"My dear sir," she replied "I had supposed that this was not a question for your family, but for yourself."

Then he answered, still more stiffly, "I object to being talked to on such subjects."

It seemed as though the way of service was blocked, and yet the unerring Spirit had led her there. Then the thought came that she should give him a tract, and that God would bless the silent messenger even after they had parted. But as she searched, she found she had forgotten all her tracts. Suddenly her bag fell to the floor, and all its contents were poured in disorder at their feet. With the instincts of a gentleman he helped her to pick up the things. Suddenly her eye fell upon a single tract that had fallen out with the other articles. But as she picked it up she thought, "This will never do." It was a tract especially addressed

to a young man that had just been saved from shipwreck. But the same unerring Guide whispered to her to put it in his hands and ask him to read it.

He took it, having grown a little freer through their better acquaintance; and as he read the title, his face became deadly pale. Before he had read the second page, the tears were pouring down his cheeks.

"Madam," he cried, turning to her "who told you about me?"

"Why, no one," she said. "What do you mean?"

"Why," said he, "someone must have told you. Did you not know that only last week I was rescued from shipwreck?"

It was the arrow of the Infinite One whose wisdom never fails; and the humble worker, waiting His bidding, had not been suffered to err. The message reached the young man's heart, and ere they parted he was saved.

This is the true secret of effectual service; and when He becomes to us the Wonderful Counselor, we shall always find Him also the Mighty God.

AYF Pen Pals

The National Youth Office recently received a letter from an AYF leader who offered the suggestion of promoting a "pen pal" program through the youth page of the new ALLIANCE WITNESS. The AYFers of this church are most anxious to participate in such a program.

A young man, the president of a large youth group in Trinidad, is an appreciative reader of the Youth Page and would like a pen pal from this country.

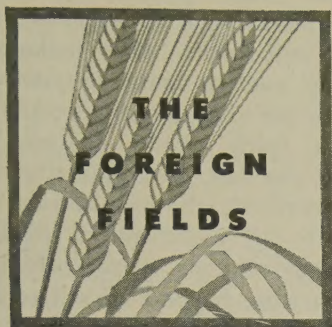
How many AYFers would be interested in such a feature? If enough fellowships would like to participate we will endeavor to set up such a program.

AYF Guide

Bible reading plan for school days

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 3

Monday Genesis 15
Tuesday Psalms 15, 16
Wednesday Matthew 4:1-25
Thursday Psalms 61, 62
Friday Acts 8:18-40



Spiritual Impetus Received During India Mission Conference

The sixty-sixth annual field conference of The Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries in the Marathi area, India, was held in Akola in October. Rev. R. M. Chrisman, area secretary, was present for part of the conference. His wise counseling and guidance were much appreciated. Many problems are arising during the transition period in which the church is coming into its own. Mr. Chrisman struck the keynote for the conference in his message on "Keeping short accounts with God and being filled with the Holy Spirit."

Since the Bangkok conference (1955) brethren from the Indian

Church have been invited to attend our missionary conference as fraternal delegates.

For a better understanding of the problems that face us during this transition period several papers were read. These were discussed with an opportunity given for our national brethren to express themselves. On another day selected missionaries and the fraternal delegates formed a panel which discussed with much profit the question of "The place and work of the missionary in India today."

This year our conference was punctuated with some out-of-season showers of rain, but we received showers of blessing "seasonably" by the messages from Mr. Chrisman as well as those from our co-missionaries, particularly Rev. F. W. Schelander. The blessings of the evening services were shared with many of our English-speaking friends in Akola.

It was fitting that our concluding service was one of praise and testimony telling of God's faithfulness in dealing with us.

We take this opportunity to send greetings to our collaborators at home and on each Alliance field throughout the world.—MRS. A. C. EICHER, MRS. R. F. PERRET.

Death Robbed of Its Prey

By ESTHER L. KUHN, *French West Africa*

We felt led to begin this dry season's literacy campaign in the village of Dyegena, where interest and response were manifested last year.

We had ministered there only a few days when the church leader told us of Dyigiya, a young man who was so ill that his people despaired of his life. Asiatic flu has taken its toll among those who were old and infirm, as well as those who suffered from other diseases. Dyigiya's mother and his elder brother's wife had recently died just a few days apart.

When Dyigiya became ill the family had gone to the fetish leader with sacrifices and had sought heathen medicine, but to no avail. The Mohammedan teacher refused to help them because they would not give the sheep that he demanded and he cursed them by saying that Dyigiya would not live through the night. In their extremity they were willing to try anything, for the young man had been in a coma and was very ill, perhaps near death.

Those who had been so antagonistic to the gospel and who had rebelled at the idea of the Christians building a church in their town now begged the Christians to help them. We went in the name of Christ to

The Marathi Conference of the India Mission during the visit of Rev. R. M. Chrisman



minister to Dyigiya and found him doubled up on a mat, a high fever raging, and with severe pains in his chest and his right leg so swollen that he was not able to put any pressure on it. Believing that strings around the chest eased the pain, they had bound him. After we gave him penicillin we asked if we might pray to the Lord Jesus Christ for him. His family replied, "Yes, anything you want to do, just so he becomes well."

John Pare, the African worker, prayed earnestly that God would glorify His name in their midst. I urged them to let us know his condition the next morning. The report was that he slept all night and that the swelling and infection in his leg and foot did not cause him as much pain as formerly. That afternoon we gave him more medications, but above all we prayed that the Lord would heal him entirely.

The third day when we saw Dyigiya under the big tree near his house we rejoiced. As he led us to his hut, hobbling on a cane, he too praised God, saying, "God through His everlasting power has healed me." He seemed to comprehend what we told him about salvation through the blood of Christ. His older brother, Mpe, was also present, and finally his old, blind father appeared. They both promised they would do nothing to hinder Dyigiya in any decision he wanted to make concerning the gospel.

After the church service on Sunday morning a number of Christian young men accompanied us to visit Dyigiya. Our hearts were united in silent prayer that God would shed the light upon his heart through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Dyigiya finally said, "If my father were here I would believe upon Christ today."

When the father came he asked, "Your leg isn't well yet, is it?" I thought of how Satan tries to hinder every soul in making a decision to follow Christ. However, I was encouraged by Dyigiya's response: "I am trusting God to heal me completely."

Finally the father yielded a bit, "I will have to talk to your older brother about it."

At the conclusion of a conference

held on the outskirts of the town between the two, the older brother came to give his consent. Dyigiya prayed the prayer of sincere repentance, after which we had great joy in cutting the fetish strings from his wrist as well as removing those around his chest.

Just a few days ago he came to the station to greet us. What a change, what a transformation! Now his body is completely well, his face radiant, his spirit exuberant and his lips praise God. This is he who has been delivered from the slavery of sin and darkness and brought into the house of God to be a son of the Most High.

Spirit Possessed

By REV. W. D. HARDY, *Thailand*

Recently when we were driving down the streets of Srisaket we heard strains of native music. It was produced by the clanging of cymbals and the monotonous, minor tones of the *kan*, a wind instrument made of bamboo pipes. Approaching the source of this typically oriental music, we saw a small, grass-roofed shed with many people standing around. Upon a long table in the shed were spread offerings of rice, flowers, fruit, pieces of silk cloth and images of various kinds of animals. All about the table were lighted candles. Several women were kneeling and others were dancing

around the offerings thus placed.

What were they doing? They were observing a ritual in worship of the evil spirits. After making an offering, each woman sat quietly in front of this altar, tensely determined that a spirit would possess her. When she felt her objective had been reached, she would rise and dance to the weird music, quickening her movements. Apparently these women were beyond all self-control and possessed by a powerful emotion. We soon realized, however, that they were not possessed by a powerful emotion, but by powerful spirits.

This would continue for three days. The dancers then considered that the spirits had been sufficiently appeased to assure them of good fortune for the coming year.

As we think back on this scene, our hearts grow heavy. Consider the tragedy of waiting and striving to be possessed by evil spirits. But can we not draw a lesson from this, applicable to our own lives? We too must wait—not before unknown gods but before the loving, living God of heaven. How grateful we are that such a One as the blessed Holy Spirit longs to take up His abode in the hearts of His people. However, before He comes in to abide we must wait before Him. "Tarry . . . until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

Rev. and Mrs. Harry M. Taylor and family, who sailed for Cambodia, Indo-China, in late September (ALLIANCE WEEKLY, November 6)



Southeast Asia Conference

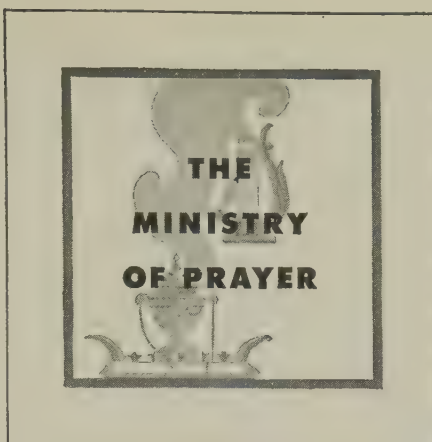
Two years ago thirty national church leaders and mission chairmen from Southeast Asia and India met together at Bangkok, Thailand. Their meditations and discussions on building an indigenous church proved profitable to most of our Southeast Asia fields represented there, praise God. In January, 1958, a second conference is to be held at Vinh Long, Viet Nam, where forty-four national church leaders and mission chairmen will share reports on the progress that has been experienced since the days at Bangkok. It is essential that this conference be, as the first was, essentially spiritual and that the delegates be controlled by the Holy Spirit as they consider the problems of full pastoral support, self-government, evangelistic advance and church-mission relationships.

French West Africa

Pray for our missionaries, and especially for the national workers, as pressure is brought to bear upon many of them by the nationalist party. One worker reported the blessing of the Lord on an itinerary, but he also said that in some sections it was almost impossible to preach unless the worker held a membership card in the nationalist party. In one place where this pastor stayed with a Christian trader, political fanatics destroyed the trader's house because he refused to sign as a member of the nationalist party. This nationalist movement is particularly strong in the forest country among the Guerzé and Toma people. Pray that the gospel will not be hindered. . . . We regretfully report that the R. D. Lytle family is returning to the States this month because of his poor health (see *ALLIANCE WEEKLY*, September 25, 1957). Also, Mrs. N. H. Billings has returned on an early furlough with their children as Connie, one of the twins, is partially paralyzed by a tumor on the spine (since removed). Miss Cecilia Lewis is suffering from what appears to be either cancer or TB of her jawbone. Please pray that God will heal.

Gabon

It is expected that the translation of the New Testament into the Yipounou language will be completed within the next year or two. Pray for the anointing of the Lord on those doing this important task. . . . With French schools opening all over the country, the potential reading public is growing. Increasing numbers of French and native language Gospels are being sold. Pray for the anointing of the Spirit on this form of evangelization. . . . Pray for a moving of the Holy Spirit among the Gabonese. The Word of God has been faithfully preached in all our seven districts, and we are glad to report there are over 1,000 baptized believers. But many of these believers are weak and ineffective as Christian witnesses. We are fully persuaded that prayer will bring real revival.



Viet Nam

Pray for the missionaries in the Quinhon district as they continue their evangelistic tours, using the camp trailer for living quarters and loud-speakers to preach to the multitudes. Pray that they might see the power of God manifested as His Word is given out day and night along the way. . . . Pray for the many in the Quinhon area who have recently confessed Christ as their Saviour, some of whom are far from any church or chapel. Pray that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become living witnesses for Christ. Modest church buildings are desperately needed in this district. Pray that all the Christians will learn the precious lesson of bringing all their tithes unto the Lord.

Thailand

In several churches recently there has been a strong sense of the need of the work of the Holy Spirit in individuals. Some have come to know the presence of the indwelling Christ. However, the enemy is endeavoring to bring confusion on the tongues issue. Pray that the leaders of the church, as well as the congregations, may find the Word the answer to these questions and not be confused. . . . The annual conference of the Gospel Church of Thailand (C. & M. A.) will be held December 30-January 2. There will be election of the president and the secretary. More pastors should be appointed. Pray that the Lord will make known His presence and give wisdom and guidance in the business sessions as well as in the devotional services. . . . The missionary conference, January 29 to February 5, 1958, will need guidance in the many items of business on the agenda, especially in the election of a field chairman. Mr. Boese, the present chairman, will be returning to the States on regular furlough early in the year.

Colombia

Praise God for marked blessing upon the evangelistic ministry of Efraim Dias (see November 27, 1957). . . . Also praise God that money is coming in

for purchasing property and building a church in Cali. Since rents are so very high, building seems the best way to provide a church home for the ever-growing congregation in this large city.

Ecuador

Tent meetings are planned for different parts of the country. Pray for special insight and direction as the campaigns are arranged and, above all, for results that will satisfy the heart of God. . . . Pray for the conversion of the pupils in the Indian schools during this school year. Many of them already know the Lord; others do not. Pray, too, that the Christians will be stable in the face of persecution and opposition. . . . Pray for the construction of a much-needed church in Ambato, that the Lord will provide in every detail and give vision and wisdom. The pastor would like to dedicate the new building by the end of this year, but they have only recently started to build.

Peru

Praise God for blessing the work in Trujillo, a university city and the third largest city in Peru. Pray for evangelistic meetings to be held there the first few weeks of January; the missionaries and national Christians are anxious for an outpouring of His Spirit during this campaign. . . . Prayer is requested for the wives of two preachers: Mrs. V. Malpartida is suffering a great deal physically and needs a serious operation, and Mrs. Sanchez has a critical physical need. . . . During the first week of January a number of preachers will be transferring. Pray that God will bless them and their ministries in their new areas of responsibility.

China-Hong Kong

Praise the Lord that Peter Ho, a recent graduate of the Cheung Chau Seminary, has been granted an entrance visa to Formosa to help in the church work there. Pray that other graduates with a vision and heart to reach overseas Chinese for Christ will be allowed to enter the various Southeast Asia countries.

Philippines

Pray for a deep working of God's Spirit in several youth rallies to be held in Siasi, Canas, Norala, Kidapawan, and one or two other places during the Christmas-New Year holidays. Attendance will range between seventy and two hundred at each meeting lasting from three to five days long. These times of Bible teaching and evangelism and personal spiritual revival are golden opportunities for a concentrated presentation of the claims of Christ on the young people. . . . At least three men gifted for colportage work are needed within the next few weeks. Pray that there may be those in the churches who will be willing to set aside other things to work in this way to help get the gospel into the hands of the people of these islands.



CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

To the Fields

Miss Lillian M. Amstutz, R.N., Dr. E. Ardel Vietti and Rev. and Mrs. J. Gail Fleming sailed from San Francisco on December 7 for their first term of



E. Ardel Vietti, M.D.



Lillian M. Amstutz, R.N.
Tribes of Viet Nam

service in the Tribes of Viet Nam Mission.

Miss Amstutz is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Tilman Amstutz, missionaries to India. She is a graduate of St. Paul Bible Institute, where she received the B.R.E. degree, and also graduated from the University of Minneapolis with the B.S.-R.N. degree.

Dr. Vietti is a member of the Alliance church in Houston, Tex. She graduated from Rice Institute in Houston and the Medical School of the University of Texas. She also attended Nyack Missionary College for a short time. Dr. Vietti will be stationed at Banmethuot, in the leprosarium.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleming are graduates of the Canadian Bible College, Regina, Sask. They served Alliance churches in Ocean Falls, B. C., and Mirror, Alta., and hold their membership in the latter church. They will be stationed in Djiring for language study.

On Furlough

Miss Florence E. Nichols arrived in New York December 7 by plane from French West Africa, where she has just completed her first term. She has been teaching in the school for missionaries' children.

The New Generation

To Mr. and Mrs. John Hazlett, Pontiac, Mich., a son, Bradley John, on November 20.

To Rev. and Mrs. Joseph H. Slagle, Cleveland, Ohio, a son, Timothy Carl, on November 9.

Lancaster Dedicates New Church

The Neighborhood Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lancaster, Pa., was dedicated to the Lord in a special service held October 6, 1957, with Dr. H. L. Turner delivering the dedicatory address. Greetings were read from the mayor of the city, Society leaders and former pastors not able to attend. Others participating were: Mr. John Kaspar, chairman of the building committee; Mr. Jacob Habecker, contractor; Rev. J. W. McGarvey, District Superintendent; Dr. C. Donald McKaig; Mr. Richard Graybill, church secretary; Mr. Robert Sesseman and Miss Annette Sesseman, musicians, and the pastor, Rev. Samuel W. McGarvey.

The building is of brick and provides an auditorium seating 225, which can be opened to add to the seating capacity when needed. Included in the facilities are a baptistry, pastor's study, twelve classrooms and downstairs auditorium. Folding doors permit the classrooms to be made into large meeting rooms. Present facilities provide for a Sunday school of 250 pupils. The total cost of the building and equipment is approximately \$100,000.

The history of this work goes back to the 1890's, when several Bible classes and prayer groups began almost simultaneously in devout homes of Lancaster City and County. Christians were drawn together by a desire for deeper life truth and a concern for the earth's perishing millions. In 1899 Rev. Noah Hess was asked to coordinate these groups and become their first pastor. Sunday afternoon services

The Neighborhood Church of the C. & M. A., Lancaster, Pa.



Letters

A Voice for God

I feel I would be failing to obey my precious Lord if I did not write and tell you how your articles on "Those Amazing Methodists" have blessed my soul. I know God will use them for the edification of His Church. It is wonderful to know that there are still voices crying in this wilderness of sin and blindness. I know all the praise goes to Him, yet I also know that He speaks to usward only through a vessel molded by His own precious hands.—Mrs. VENE HREDZAK, Monaca, Pa.

P.S. I have just read a book, published by your press, that I consider the finest I have ever read on Christ's return, by Arthur Clermont Peck. It lifted my soul to heaven and put an even greater burden on my heart for the lost. Marantha!

were held in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Hess, then the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hess, and still later in the
(Continued on page 15)



Rev. and Mrs. J. Gail Fleming
Tribes of Viet Nam

Sunday

READING—Hebrews 7:19-28.

TEXT—"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" (verse 25).

What this uttermost salvation means none of us has fully fathomed. It reaches down to the lowest depths of unworthiness, helplessness and misery. It reaches out to the wildest range of sinful men and the farthest circle of human experience and spiritual need. It reaches on to the remotest age of eternity, and it will not have been fully interpreted until the millennium has ended and the ages of glory have begun to roll. It reaches to our temporal affairs, to our physical needs, to the outermost extremity of our being and the innermost need of our heart and life. It is an infinite, everlasting, complete salvation of spirit, soul and body for all time and all eternity. Blessed be His holy name!—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for The Island World; Eastern, South Pacific Districts, Mexico.

Monday

READING—Hebrews 11:1-7.

TEXT—"By faith Noah, . . . moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (verse 7).

The fear of God makes a hero; the fear of man makes a coward. Fear to do wrong makes the hero; fear to do right makes a coward. Noah was warned of things not seen as yet and he believed God's warning. Such a thing as a flood the world had never known. It was out of the range of his experience; there were scores of arguments against it; but God's word with Noah was stronger than all arguments. The need of this day is a healthy fear: faith in Sinai with its thundering of judgment as strong as faith in Calvary with its whisperings of love; a belief in the words of Christ about the "worm (that) dieth not" as strong as a belief in the mansions which He is preparing for His people. The fear of Noah moved him forward; the fear of the coward moves him backward.—A. C. DIXON.

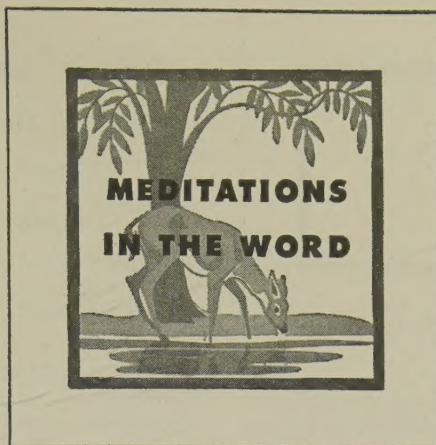
Pray for India; Western Pennsylvania District, Puerto Rico, Jewish Work.

Tuesday

READING—James 5:1-11.

TEXT—"Be ye also patient; . . . the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (verse 8).

That blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus, has many precious applications in the Scriptures, but none is more precious than its application to the practical duties and trials of our common life. It is not only a theme for the theologians to discuss, poets to sing of and saints to dream of, but it is a weapon for life's warfare, a staff for life's journey, a comfort for life's every trial; something for the housewife amid the poverty of her



Compiled by EDITH M. BEYERLE

home, something for the laborer under the scorching sun of the harvest field, something for the workman robbed of his wages and tempted to fight for his rights, something better than our modern socialism, than our heated politics, than our utopian dreams—a living hope for living and dying men, and a practical remedy for all earth's wrongs and sorrows.—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for Africa; Western, Western Canadian, Southeastern Districts.

Wednesday

READING—Matthew 10:24-32.

TEXT—"Ye are of more value than many sparrows" (verse 31).

*What lies ahead for thee, my soul,
Of good or ill, of weal or woe;
What lies ahead in this New Year?
I cannot say—I cannot know.*

*What lies ahead for thee, my soul,
What dost thou face in future days?
I do not know what lies ahead;
I only know God plans my ways.*

*Ah, soul of mine, thy future days
Are planned for thee by God above;
And He who notes the sparrow's fall
Is watching thee in tender love.*

*Then soul of mine, be still and know
What lies ahead is in His hands—
What'er it be that comes to thee,
He knows, He cares, He understands.*
—ELOISE MAY RICHEY.

Pray for Indo-China, Thailand; Northeastern, Eastern and Central Canadian Districts.

Thursday

READING—Psalm 103:1-14.

TEXT—"He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (verse 14).

God does not treat us as if we were strong, holy and unfallen. He does not forget that we are weak, that it is hard for us to live right, that we are easily tempted and overcome. He is very patient and gentle with us when we have sinned, binding up our wounds, restoring our soul. He does not lay upon us loads too great for us, for He

knows how weak we are. He gives us help, too, with our burdens, that we need not faint under them. We ought to get a great deal of comfort out of these words. You say that you are so weak that you cannot resist temptation. Does God not know it? Will He not help you to overcome? You are weary through trouble or burden-bearing, but God knows all about it. . . . He knows how frail you are; He remembers that you are only dust. He is pitiful and gives needed help.—J. R. MILLER.

Pray for South America; Southwestern, Pacific Northwest Districts.

Friday

READING—Luke 4:1-13.

TEXT—"Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (verse 12).

You shall not jump off the pinnacle of any temple unless you are called to do it in the service of God and for His glory. . . . There is the great weakness of our Christian life and faith. We ask God for something very earnestly but without a thought as to whether we are tempting God or whether we are showing faith in Him. Faith in God leaves off and insanity and tempting and recklessness begin at the moment when we ask for more power and greater faith, while we intend to use them for any other purpose than for His own divine glory. If God had said to Jesus, "Jump off the pinnacle of the Temple for it will be to My glory," He would have leaped off. But when it was only bringing God's power and providence to bear upon His life with no advantage to the kingdom of God, He said, "That is tempting God."—R. H. CONWELL.

Pray for China, Hong Kong; Northwestern, New England Districts.

Saturday

READING—1 Corinthians 3:12-23.

TEXT—"Saved; yet so as by fire" (verse 15).

There are many Christians who seem to think, "How little can I do, and yet keep up a respectable appearance in the community and finally be saved?" . . . If by the grace of God you are, as the saying goes, "saved by the skin of your teeth," and once get inside of the pearly gates and look up and see Paul and all the apostles and martyrs and prophets and evangelists, Luther and Calvin and the Wesleys and Spurgeon and all that glorious array; and not only these, but some poor, hard-working washerwoman who at the end of a day's toil dragged herself away to a prayer meeting and at the end of the week carried her little pile of rags to a mission school—when you look at these, you will be so ashamed of yourself that you will ask God to let you come back and work out your salvation. Satisfied? God have mercy on anyone who is satisfied with himself or herself!—THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Pray for Israel, Jordan, Syria; Central, South Atlantic Districts.

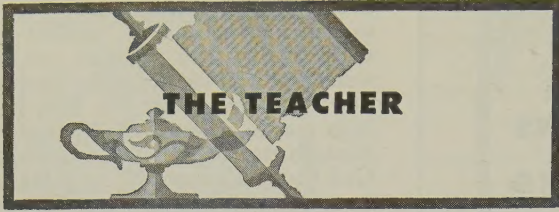
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—JANUARY 5, 1958

The Church's One Foundation

Matthew 16:13-19; Ephesians 2:19-22

DEVOTIONAL READING—1 Corinthians 3:1-11

GOLDEN TEXT—"He is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preëminence."—COLOSSIANS 1:18.



BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

The idea of the Church was new to the minds of the disciples. They had seen in Christ the potential to fulfill their dreams of the kingdom. Christ was aware of their plans and the motives which fed them. He knew that they were awaiting a strategic moment to crown Him king. It was no easy matter to overcome the carnal dream of centuries. But Christ was patient in pressing His principle of a spiritual kingdom. It was not until after Pentecost that they received direction for their devoted zeal. Paul, by revelation, gave clarity and expression to the Church's organization and mission. He then issued a warning to those who would follow him to beware how they built upon this foundation. Today our major problem is to keep ourselves purged from humanly conceived ideas.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Matthew 16 deals with the traditional rabbinical teaching that the Messiah would be manifested by a sign from heaven. Jesus refused to meet man as a magician. The sign which He granted in this chapter is a scriptural one—the sign of Jonah. This incident gave Him occasion to warn His disciples against the disposition which was apparent in the Pharisees. It was pure humanism, nurtured in unbelief and expressed in contempt. Ephesians 2 deals with the great truth of the unity of the Body of Christ. The point of integration comes at verse 14 where Paul brings into union two very unlikely and unworthy elements: the Gentile in his pagan darkness and idolatry and the Jew in smug dependence upon a covenant which had long since been broken—these have been reconciled in one Body, the Church, by the blood of Christ.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. A Question and Answer—Matthew 16:13-16.
2. A Blessing and Gift—Matthew 16:17-19.
3. A Household and Habitation—Ephesians 2:19-22.

KEYWORD ANALYSIS

(1) "Prevail" — *katischousin* (Matt. 16:18), a compound word from *kata*, meaning "against," and *ischuo*, meaning "to be strong." Here it means that the gates of hell shall not be strong against the Church. When God is ready to glorify it He will do so. Hell's gates will never stand against its ultimate victory.

(2) "Habitation" — *katoiketerion* (Eph. 2:22). *Kata* here means "down"; *oiketer*, "a dweller." The compound word denotes permanency. This is no tent in the wilderness or stopover for the night. Paul uses this figure to picture the eternal Church in Christ indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The emphasis in this passage is on its eternal quality.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. A Question and Answer (Matt. 16:13-16).

Christ's question was not so much to discover the prevailing opinion as to lay a contrast before them. In what way did the increased light which they enjoyed distinguish them from the opinions of the rabble? This would point up to them the necessity of declaring their own point of view or discovering if they actually had one. The range of rabble opinion was wide and confused but the disciples had been separated unto Christ for the very purpose of clearly declaring His glory. Until they were prepared to do so He could not entrust them with the great commission.

It was Peter, of course, who spoke to the issue declaring the Messiahship and deity of Jesus. This witness is tremendous considering the short time in which Christ brought about this point of view in Peter. It was indeed a divine revelation.

2. A Blessing and Gift (Matt. 16:17-19).

Since Peter's confession was personal it brought personal commendation from the Lord. His decision had not been the simple deduction of his senses. The light of divine truth had shone in one who had up to this time walked in darkness. Christ took the name by which Peter had been called (*Petros*) and used it in his own pronouncement of Peter's place of trust and leadership in a community of such believers which He would raise up. The Church was going to be founded upon a mass of rock (*petra*) composed of men like Peter who declared the deity and Lordship of Christ by divine revelation.

The unfounded myth of Peter holding the keys to the gates of heaven is a far cry from this impartation of authority to use his new-found knowledge of Christ to bring others into the kingdom. These keys of truth and revelation about Christ bring men to acknowledge His deity. These commissioned men were to speak as the Spirit led and empowered, and heaven will attest to the divine authority of their message and their acts.

3. A Household and Habitation (Eph. 2:19-22).

Because we are united with Christ as His Body there can no longer be any privileged group. Gentiles are now one with Jews in the Church. The term "saints" is used to designate redeemed humanity. God is the Father of the great new family in Jesus Christ. This is above all things the genius of Christianity. We are built upon the foundation of truth claimed authoritatively through Christ by men who were appointed to do so. Christ is the only foundation.

The harmony between Paul's teaching here and in the Corinthian letter is a recognition of subject material. Here he is speaking of the Church, whereas there he was discussing the ministry of apostleship. The ministry of the Church was ordained of God by the Spirit to produce that which God had decreed just as He decreed it.

The building of God is not by chance. There will be men of every age of history as well as of every nation in the building of God.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

Bear in mind that this lesson deals with metaphorical material. In Matthew the Church is a building founded upon the rock of personal commitment. In Ephesians it is a temple

composed of many parts. Each age will make its contribution to the magnificent cathedral in which Deity dwells. It will be necessary to stay with the principles; it will be easy to let the figures dominate the discussion.

THE ALLIANCE FAMILY

(Continued from page 12)

home of Miss Fannie Hess. The first permanent home of this growing church was erected on West Chestnut Street in 1924 by adding on to a building they already occupied.

Ground was broken for the present building on September 30, 1957. Through the years this church has maintained its emphasis on evangelism and the victorious Christian life, and has also kept bright its vision of world missions. God has called more than fifty young men and women from this congregation to serve Him in this country and in foreign mission fields. In addition to Mr. Hess former pastors who have served are: Revs. E. R. Dunbar, J. V. Krall, H. P. Young, H. T. Roe, J. D. R. Allison, C. D. McKaig, J. W. McGarvey, J. A. Wagoner, R. J. Foster.

From October 8 through 13 evangelistic services were held with Dr. K. C. Fraser, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cranford Church Increases Pledge

During the fall convention at the Cranford (N. J.) Alliance Church the pledge for missions reached a total of \$27,000. This is remarkable since the church is also carrying a \$70,000 mortgage incurred on the new educational building which cost \$130,000. The tremendous financial obligations in recent years have not hindered the blessing of the Spirit of God meeting open and hungry hearts. The congregation is thanking God for all His manifold blessing. Dr. G. A. Aitcheson is pastor.

Pastoral Transfers and Appointments

Rev. Harry Beavers, Instructor, Toccoa Falls Institute, Toccoa Falls, Ga.

J. B. Broughton, to Anniston, Ala.

Rev. Joel Butterworth, to E. Macon, Ga.

Rev. George E. Cannon, Instructor, St. Paul Bible Institute, St. Paul, Minn.

Rev. C. W. Clause, to Waco, Tex.

Rev. R. W. Conner, Retired.

Rev. Willard L. Davis, to West Hempstead, N. Y.

Rev. M. R. Erdmann, to Ronan, Mont.

Rev. Roy Forward, to Fellowship Alliance Church, Tampa, Fla.

Rev. Ernest Grames, to Nanticoke, Pa.

Rev. Elmer Gunderson, to Waverly, N. Y.

Rev. Cloyd B. Hammel, to Headquarters Staff.

Rev. J. F. Hay, to Wabash, Ind.

Rev. James V. Hedger, to Medina, N. Y.

Rev. Gail Ingwerson, to Green Memorial Church, Lincoln, Nebr.

Rev. F. E. Johnson, to Sandusky, Ohio.

Rev. Stephen Kanter, to Faith Gospel Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Jerry B. McCauley, to Bedford, Pa.

Rev. Fred McGarvey, to Independent Church, Newton, Kans.

Rev. Melvin G. Morgret, to Macon, Ga.

Rev. James E. Rich, to Avondale Estates, Ga.

Rev. Palmer Rupp, to Meadow Grove, Nebr.

Rev. Donald R. Sadler, to Evangelist.

Rev. Lawrence Showell, to Denver, Colo.

Rev. R. M. Shipley, to Evangelist.

Rev. Melvin Stombaugh, to Glen-dive, Mont.

Rev. Edwin Tucker, to Chanceford, Pa.

Rev. Charles P. Wilson, to Cortland, N. Y.

NEW WORKERS. David Becknell, Independent Church, Manville, Wyo.

Edison Brooker, Dora Lake, Minn.

Richard Colenso, Remer, Minn.

Rev. Vernon Erickson, Vallejo, Calif.

Rev. Ronald K. Fletcher, Tyler, Minn.

Daniel Goldberg, Clutier, Ia.

Joseph Harrison, Manhattan, Mont.

Clarence Hawk, Smethport, Pa.

Richard W. Knowles, Battle Lake, Minn.

James Lindsey, Instructor, Toccoa Falls, Ga.

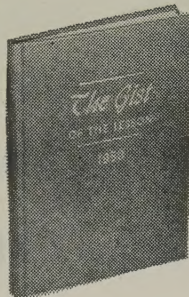
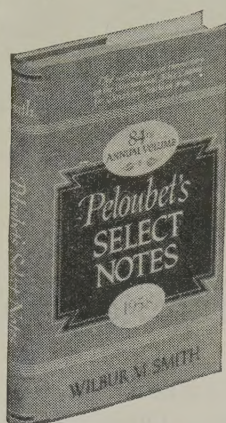
Merrill J. Moore, Assistant Pastor, C. & M. A. South Side, Chicago, Ill.

Richard B. Pease, Assistant Pastor, Jamestown, N. Y.

Aldian Romero, Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Edward R. Sandquist, South North-field, Vt.

LESSON COMMENTARIES — 1958



TARBELL'S TEACHERS' GUIDE

By MARTHA TARBELL. A commentary on the International Bible Lessons. It presents a teaching vision that pervades every lesson, that seems to know instinctively what the church school teacher needs to make the week's lesson something to remember and live by. (86) ..\$2.75

GIST OF THE LESSON

By R. A. TORREY. A handy little pocket book every teacher will find invaluable. It is a mine of informative helpfulness as well as a source of spiritual stimuli to its tens of thousands of users. (86)75c

ARNOLD'S PRACTICAL COMMENTARY

By B. L. OLMSTEAD. This is the 64th annual volume of the commentary on the Sunday School Lessons of the International Uniform Series which has been the teaching guide of thousands of workers in all major Protestant churches. (58)\$2.25

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S GUIDE

By HARRY E. BARTOW. Offers many suggestions for conducting the sessions of the school, presenting the truths of the lessons, securing conviction and dedication, encouraging pupil participation in order to train new leaders, and making the school a new influence for God in the community. (3)75c

POINTS FOR EMPHASIS FOR 1958

By CLIFTON J. ALLEN. Designed not to take the place of any helps on the Sunday school lessons but to supplement the material now available; this is a valuable book for teachers, church libraries, and all interested in Bible study. It offers for each Bible lesson a digest of Scriptures, notes, lesson interpretations, and the practical application. (15)75c

PELOUBET'S SELECT NOTES

By WILBUR M. SMITH. This is the 84th annual volume of this popular commentary and the 24th edition prepared by Dr. Wilbur M. Smith. It maintains the high standard of the preceding years, containing a vast wealth of material on the weekly lessons in the Uniform Series. The teacher and pastor will find in the volume rich teaching material, well presented and organized with great care. The editor offers an abundance of carefully prepared, true to the Bible study of the text, along with application of lesson truths for various age groups. It is complete in every respect, containing a bibliography, editorial matter, audio-visual material, and a comprehensive index. (109)\$2.95

HIGLEY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARY

A commentary on the International Uniform Lessons which includes such features as follows: Every lesson completely keyed together and cross indexed, a different object lesson for each Sunday, verse by verse exposition with analysis, central truth and lesson topic, charts, maps and many other features. (51) ..\$2.25

Order from either house

WILLIAM H. DIETZ, INC.
10 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois

CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Third and Reilly Streets
Harrisburg, Penna.

Kindly add 15c for postage, handling and insurance when orders are less than \$3.00 and 5c for each additional dollar or fraction thereof.



Japanese children in a Christmas program

A. P. MCGARVEY

Churches eliminate heathen festivities from

Christmas Celebrations in Japan

IN Christian lands a family Christmas is a heart-warming occasion. But Christmas in Japan is not ordinarily a family affair. Often there is only one Christian in a Japanese home and the atmosphere is pervaded by Buddhism and Shintoism.

However, the Christians attempt to make up in their churches the lack of joy in their homes. The problem they face is how to keep Christmas in the true spirit.

Their confusion is increased by the fact that commercial interests in Japan, as in Christian lands, have seized this occasion to promote sales. Decorated ever-green trees set off displays of merchandise. The streets and stores reverberate to the sound of carols recorded in English. Santa Claus, with his familiar sleigh and reindeer, dominates the business district while girls in glamorized Santa togs pass out balloons. Christmas parties for children are even sponsored at Buddhist and Shinto shrines.

In the churches, however, festivities that are unrelated to Christ are being set aside in favor of programs and activities that honor Him. The young people have discovered the joy of caroling for shut-ins, at hospitals and in orphanages. The Christians prepare gifts to bring happiness to poor families. Last year in Hiroshima the churches held meetings on some of the busy streets, telling the Christmas story and passing out tracts. Permission was given to project slides of nativity scenes on the side of a large building in the heart of the city. Similar efforts are being made this year to make Christ known to a people who celebrate Christmas in ignorance of the Saviour.

THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

260 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y. 61 Glenvale Blvd., Toronto 17, Canada